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ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

NEWS

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PROGRESS OF LEGISLATION

11 June 1956: The Senate passed bill S. 3430, as amended, providing for the establishment of a National Library of Medicine in the U. S. Public Health Service, and under the supervision of a 17-member Board of Regents. The bill authorizes construction of a new building for the Library "in or near the District of Columbia."

On the same day the Subcommittee on Health and Science of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, of which Mr. J.Percy Priest, of Tennessee, is Chairman, held hearings on H.R. 11524, a bill introduced in the House by Mr. Priest and identical to the bill passed by the Senate. Those who testified on behalf of the measure were: Dr. David E. Price (Public Health Service); Dr.Frank B. Berry (Department of Defense); Mr.L.Quincy Mumford (Library of Congress); Dr. Preston A. McLendon (American Medical Association); Dr. Worth B. Daniels(Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces).

The House Subcommittee approved the bill and sent it to the full Committee for further action.

19 June 1956: The Committee on House Administration, of which Mr. Omar Burleson, of Texas, is Chairman, held hearings on H.R. 11267 and related bills, which have the objective of placing the National Library of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois. A delegation of 14 Chicago residents spoke on behalf of these bills; they were: The Honorable Richard J. Daley (Mayor of Chicago); Dr. Morris Fishbein; Dr. Walter H. Theobald (Chicago Medical Center Commission); Dr. Maurice Hoeltgen (Chicago Medical Society); Mr. John W. Neal (Cook County Graduate School of Medicine); Dr. G.W. Solfronk (Chicago Dental Society); Dr. Herman Bundesen (Chicago Board of Health); Dr. Richard E. Young (Northwestern University); Dr. Earl A. Evans, Jr. (University of Chicago); Dr. Francis Lederer (University of Illinois); Mr. Herman H. Henkle (John Crerar Library); Mr. Stanley Pargellis (Newberry Library); Mr. E. W. Wilson (Armour & Company); Mr. Milton B. Faber (Stineway Drug Company). Also testifying were Senator Paul H. Douglas, of Illinois; Representatives Thomas J. O'Brien, Marguerite Stitt Church, Thomas S. Gordon, James C. Murray, John C. Kluczynski, Timothy P. Sheehan, all of Cook County. Representative Sidney R. Yates, of Chicago, sponsor of one of the bills under consideration, was present and conducted some of the questioning.

Printing cost borne by the FRIENDS of the Armed Forces Medical Library.

26 June 1956: The Committee on House Administration held additional hearings on H.R. 11267, at which advocates of the District of Columbia site were heard. Testifying were: Dr. Frank B. Berry; Dr. Stanhope Bayne-Jones (Office of The Surgeon General, U.S. Army); Lt. Col. Frank B. Rogers (Armed Forces Medical Library); Dr. Leonard A. Scheele (Public Health Service); Mr. Verner W. Clapp (Library of Congress); Dr. William S. Middleton (Veterans' Administration); Dr. I. S. Ravdin (University of Pennsylvania); Dr. Victor Johnson(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research); Dr. Wilburt C. Davison (Duke University); Dr. John Youmans (Vanderbilt University); Mr. Frederick G. Kilgour (Yale University, and representing the Medical Library Association); Miss Mary Louise Marshall (Tulane University); Mr. Jack Dalton (University of Virginia, and representing the American Library Association). Representatives Yates and Sheehan, of Chicago, were also present and conducted some of the questioning. The Chairman of the Committee announced that many telegrams and letters had been received expressing opposition to the bills designating the Chicago site.

27 June 1956: The Associated Press reported that the Committee on House Administration had voted to take no action on the bills to establish the Library in Chicago; "the effect was to pave the way for House concurrence in a Senate bill that would establish the Library in Washington" since "a House Commerce Subcommittee has already approved a bill . . . identical to the Senate measure."

ANNUAL MEETING, MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Medical Library Association held its 55th Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, 19-22 June 1956, with 260 members in attendance. In addition to two business meetings, which were supplemented by mimeographed reports from the officers and committees of the Association, the program, built around the theme "Medicine Moves West", included a wide variety of scientific lectures, discussions of professional problems, and a visit to the new UCLA Medical Center and the Biomedical Library. Mr. Wesley Draper, MLA President, ably presided over the general sessions, and Mrs. Ella Crandall and Mrs. Mollie Sittner were hard-working Chairman and Co-Chairman, respectively, of the Convention Committee.

At the annual banquet the Marcia C. Noyes Award was presented, in absentia, to Colonel Harold Wellington Jones (USA, retired), who served as Librarian of the Army Medical Library from 1936 to 1945.

Officers elected for the coming year are the following:

President	- Miss Bertha B. Hallam, Portland (Ore.)
Vice-President (President-Elect)	- Mr. Thomas E. Keys, Rochester (Minn.)
Hon. Vice-President	- Dr. Cyril B. Courville, Los Angeles
Secretary	- Mrs. Henrietta T. Perkins, New Haven
Treasurer	- Miss Pauline Duffield, Austin (Texas)
Board of Directors	- Miss Mildred Jordan, Atlanta
	- Miss Lilah B. Heck, Oklahoma City

The 1957 meeting will be held in New York City, 6-10 May, and the 1958 meeting will be held at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.

HISTORY OF SPECTACLES

The AFML exhibit for July and August deals with the early history of spectacles, which are the composite invention of many of the most brilliant men of science. Incunabula are displayed to illustrate the interlocking development of the science of optics and the study of the retina and crystalline lens. Other early works indicate the initial reaction of physicians and other scientists to the idea of spectacles. Drawings of early glass- and lens-making procedures are included, featuring tools devised by Hevelius, Robert Hooke, Sir Christopher Wren, and others. Legends, hoaxes, and anachronistic portraits of patriarchs, saints, and other supposed inventors of eyeglasses are illustrated; the development of specific types of lenses (periscopic, bifocal, prismatic) is traced; there is also material in the exhibit on European spectacle-makers' guilds and on spectacles of the Orient.

The July-August exhibit was prepared by Mrs. Justine Randers-Pehrson, of the Catalog Division.

UNAVAILABLES

One of the saddest statements the librarian must sometimes make to a patron in response to a request is "The book is unavailable." At AFML a review was recently conducted of all of the 168,000 requests received during Fiscal Year 1955 -- for readers in the Library, for photoduplication, and for interlibrary loans -- and the "unavailable" record has been analyzed.

Our findings: Out of any 1,000 requests, 147 were unavailable. Of these 147--

(a) 50 were already on loan to another patron
(b) 38 were not in the collection
(c) 25 were at the bindery
(d) 14 were missing
(e) 10 had not yet been received
(f) 6 "do not circulate"
(g) 4 were unavailable for miscellaneous reasons

Our comments:

On (a): This is regrettable, but if it were not for the photoduplication service the number would be higher.

On (b): Only a few of these are alarming because most of them are definitely out of scope.

On (c): This number will decrease during 1956, as our binding situation is much improved.

On (d): Some of these will turn up on further search and during the course of stripping the shelves for recataloging, but those which cannot be accounted for in this way represent the toll which poor housing, constant shifting, and inadequate past records have taken, as well as the inevitable loss which occurs with use.

On (e): There are several explanations possible here, and one of them is scandalous -- that the Library's services are being improperly exploited, as by non-observance of Interlibrary Loan Codes.

On (f): This includes unbound materials requested as interlibrary loans, material in condition too poor to circulate, and reference works, which are a part of the Library's working reference collection.

HOLDINGS OF CANCER LITERATURE

The Acquisition Division has completed a check of the Library's holdings of the titles listed in Martin's Guide to Cancer Literature, published by the John Crerar Library last year. The 471 monographic items in this list were published within the 15-year period 1940-54.

The check revealed that 38 items (8%) were found lacking in the AFML collection. Normally, a source with so low a yield of needed items is given a low priority for searching; this check was made chiefly to determine the holdings in this single important field in view of the imminent publication of the AFML bibliography on the chemotherapy of cancer.

Eleven of the lacking items are from known commercial publishers, ten from obscure or unnamed presses; nine are from non-commercial institutional sources; four are in Russian; two are theses, one is a government hearing, and one is possibly out of scope. Of the 26 and 28 items listed for 1953 and 1954, respectively, none are missing from the AFML collection.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

With the beginning of Fiscal Year 1957 the accounting function of the fiscal activities of the Armed Forces Medical Library will be absorbed by the Finance and Accounts Office, Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The transfer of this function from the Library to the Medical Center is a part of the Army's Financial Management Program. Although the change would seem to lessen the Library's control over its funds, in practice the control will actually be strengthened by the Financial Management Plan. The basic concept of the plan is to make available to commanders of Army installations all of the financial resources needed, and the control thereof; under this plan the Library will be allotted 100% of its funds instead of only 12% as formerly, for operating expenses. In short, the Finance and Accounts Office, WRAMC, will be in charge of detailed bookkeeping of the money allotted to the Library; budgeting, allocation and apportionment of these funds will be under the control of the Library.

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